

## Chief Executive's Report

### Public Board

27 January 2022

<b>Presented for:</b>	Information and discussion
<b>Presented by:</b>	Julian Hartley, Chief Executive
<b>Author:</b>	Julian Hartley, Chief Executive
<b>Previous Committees:</b>	None

<b>Trust Goals</b>	
The best for patient safety, quality and experience	✓
The best place to work	✓
A centre for excellence for research, education and innovation	✓
Seamless integrated care across organisational boundaries	✓
Financial sustainability	✓

<b>Key points</b>	
1. To provide an update on news across the Trust and the actions and activity of the Chief Executive since the last Board meeting	Discussion and information
2. To ratify the delegated authority for the appointment of consultants	Approval

## **1. Omicron wave, vaccination and elective recovery**

At the time of writing, the prevalence of Covid infection in the community is declining, and the number of patients in our hospitals who are Covid positive is reducing. Our Covid-related hospital occupancy has reduced such that we can have reassurance that we have seen the peak within this fifth surge of Covid admissions for our hospitals. The transmissibility of the Omicron variant has meant this surge has been faster than previous increases with high numbers of staff either contracting the virus or needing to isolate. In addition, the rise coincided with Christmas and New Year. I am hugely grateful for the dedication and skill of colleagues across the Trust to care for patients and take action for the Trust to manage another surge.

This period has seen a huge response across healthcare in Leeds and West Yorkshire to the booster vaccination campaign. Since the announcement on 12 December of the government ambition to increase the pace and coverage of vaccination, uptake in Leeds has increased from a third of the eligible population to over half. The speed at which all partners responded, including community pharmacy, general practice and service at Elland Road again demonstrates the agility and dedication of the NHS and the general public to respond to the challenges which this pandemic continues to present.

Finally, efforts continue to make as much progress as possible in continuing elective work and making some recovery against the backlog and waiting lists for patients. The challenge is significant and coordinated efforts within the Trust and with regional partners are required, which is why programmes of work are underway internally, with the independent sector and through the West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT). The first of our Elective Care Hubs is being developed at Wharfedale Hospital. Feasibility and design work is underway and, if viable, development will continue for the next 12-18 months. Our aim as a Trust is to significantly reduce the number of patients waiting more than 104 weeks by the end of March 2022. Hubs such as this will also minimise the risk of planned care being cancelled when we have increased numbers of patients with Covid-19 or large admissions coming in through our Emergency Departments. It should also be remembered that despite the demand of Covid, much elective work has continued throughout the pandemic and there have been some significant achievements. For example, 167 kidney transplants were achieved during 2021 including 54 live kidney donors; a demonstration of the flexibility and efforts of teams in the circumstances.

## **2. Reducing the burden of reporting and releasing capacity to manage the COVID-19 pandemic**

On 24<sup>th</sup> December all NHS Trusts received a letter from NHS England advising to reduce the burden of reporting and releasing capacity to manage the Omicron surge. Consequently, during this period, today's Board meeting and committees have been streamlined to reduce burden whilst ensuring business and good governance is maintained as necessary.

## **3. Local and regional partnerships**

The NHS Planning Guidance included announcement that the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act will be delayed from the 1 April 2022 for three months until the 1 July 2022, subject to parliamentary approval. The West Yorkshire partnership has been risk assessing the impact of a possible delay, with no disruption caused since CCGs will continue in their statutory role and the Health and Care Partnership will continue with its current shadow governance arrangements.

As part of the establishment of a Leeds Committee within the new West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board due to be established in July 2022, the health and care partnership is recruiting for an Independent Chair and 2 Committee Members. These roles will bring objectivity, independence and challenge to the Committee and help ensure that the Leeds Committee takes transparent, efficient, effective and safe decisions that make effective use of NHS resources. The closing date is Friday 4 February 5pm and applicant details are available on the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership website. The same roles are being advertised in Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Bradford within the Partnership.

#### **4. Research and Innovation**

The Breast Imaging service has become the first department in the UK to introduce a new artificial intelligence (AI) technology which evaluates the technical quality of mammograms. The technology will be implemented in both screening and symptomatic breast services to provide mammographers with instant feedback and AI-generated positioning information when the image is taken. The new technology will also provide extra support for trainee staff members in the busy department.

Congratulations to our colleagues who have been included in the annual Highly Cited Researchers 2021 list from Clarivate. Professor Paul Emery OBE, Versus Arthritis Professor of Rheumatology, Director Leeds NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, and Rheumatology Consultant specialising in Connective Tissue Disease at LTHT, Professor Alex Ford, Professor of Gastroenterology at the Leeds School of Medicine and Honorary Consultant Gastroenterologist and Professor Mark Wilcox, Professor of Medical Microbiology at the Leeds School of Medicine and Consultant Microbiologist have all been included. This annual list identifies researchers who have demonstrated significant influence in their field through the publication of multiple highly-cited papers during the last decade. This is impressive global recognition for Paul, Alex and Mark which speaks volumes about the level of high quality research taking place here in Leeds and is a fantastic personal accomplishment.

Congratulation to the team from clinical immunology, led by clinical associate professor Sinisa Savic in collaboration with scientists based at the University of Leeds and University of California in the USA, who recently discovered a new, primary immunodeficiency. They were able to identify a new genetic cause within a single individual and by using a range of biological tests demonstrated that this genetic change was the cause of the patient's immunodeficiency. This is the first example in worldwide literature to show that new genetic causes of the disease can be also found in sporadic cases.

#### **5. Listening and Learning**

A highlight of the December is normally my Christmas visits where I visit all our sites to meet with teams to thank them for their work and wish them the best at the end of the year. Unfortunately, these visits have been curtailed this year due to infection prevention limitations and isolation. However I have been able to visit some teams in person and remotely, including colleagues at the LGI, Wharfedale and Chapel Allerton. My executive colleagues have also been visiting teams and giving their best wishes.

I was pleased to meet the team behind our outpatient HIV service for Worlds Aids Day and the 40th anniversary of the first reported cases of HIV-related illnesses and deaths in the UK. It was great to hear about the progress which has been made in treatment over the last 40 years and the fantastic work the team are doing to support our patients with HIV.

In December I was pleased to open the men's mental health conference. I also visited the new purpose-built enhanced care Higher Observation Area (HOBS) in Neuroscience, which is now up and running at the LGL.

## **6. Celebrating Success**

Huge credit is due to Kevin Sinfield, who went to incredible efforts to undertake his 24 hour, 101-mile run on 22 November. The run, from Leicester Tigers Stadium to Headingley Stadium gained a huge amount of coverage in the media, and raised more than £2m towards the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the Leeds Hospitals Charity campaign to fundraise for a brand new MND centre here in Leeds. 101 miles in 24 hours is a staggering achievement and our MND services will benefit for many years from the fundraising and attention on MND generated by Kevin Sinfield and Rob Burrows. I would also like to recognise the leadership and vision shown by Dr Agam Jung in our MND service and the idea the Rob Burrow Centre.

Congratulations to the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Service at Leeds Children's Hospital which has been designated as a 'Centre of Excellence in Supportive Care' by the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC). Leeds Children's Hospital is the first children's hospital in the world to be awarded this status and now joins other leading services around the globe to receive this designation. I was delighted to meet with the team in November.

Congratulations to Mr Shekhar Biyani who has been selected to receive the John Anderson Award from the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) in 2022. This award is given to an individual who has contributed to Urology in an outstanding or inspirational way.

Congratulations to Sophie Blow, clinical operational lead for perioperative optimisation, who has been named as one of The Pharmaceutical Journal's Women to Watch 2021. Sophie was chosen for her fantastic work in helping better prepare patients for surgery, through our Shape Up 4 Surgery initiative.

Congratulations to Dr Kerrie Davies, Healthcare Associated Infections Research Group, Microbiology, who has been awarded the Chief Scientific Officer's UK Healthcare Scientist of the Year, 2021. The award has been given for Kerrie's contribution to the national Covid-19 testing programme and for contributions to infectious disease research, particularly for her work on test product regulatory validation and technical validation of test assay.

Congratulations to Mary O'Kane, Honorary Consultant Dietitian (Obesity), on being awarded the British Dietetic Association Elizabeth Washington Award. Mary was named as a winner for Improving the nutritional assessment and nutritional aftercare of people undergoing bariatric surgery in the UK.

Congratulations to all involved in our sustainability work after LTHT was announced as the winner of the Sustainable Hospitals Award at the Health Business Awards, in recognition of the work we are doing to become a Carbon Literate organisation.

## **7. Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act - implementation**

The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act received royal assent in May 2019 and since then the organisation has been working to prepare for the changes. When implemented, the legislation will transfer significant duties from Local Authorities to NHS Hospital Trust Boards of Directors.

Originally, the implementation date was set as October 2020; however, in July 2020 the Government announced a delay until April 2022. We have now received confirmation (16th December 2021) that implementation has been deferred once more, with no new date set for implementation of the Act. I can therefore confirm that there are currently no changes in legal duty for LTHT Board of Directors under the Mental Capacity (amendment) Act.

An update will be provided to the Board once further information regarding new timescales for implementing the Act is received.

## **8. Covid-19 Public Inquiry**

The public inquiry into the pandemic is set to begin its work in spring 2022. The inquiry will be looking at all aspects of the country's response to the pandemic including health, education, the economic impact etc. and will cover all UK nations. The Chair has been appointed and we will await confirmation of the national Terms of Reference. Currently it is not known what level of involvement will be required from the Trust, but as part of preparation, we have issued a Document Preservation Notice to all staff to advise that no records relating to the Covid Pandemic should be deleted.

## **9. Consultant appointments**

I am pleased to report that I have, under delegated authority, approved the following appointments:

New consultant posts:

- Dr Tanzeel Janjua – Consultant in Clinical Oncology
- Dr Farhan Baig – Consultant in Acute Medicine
- Dr Richard Shepherd – Consultant in Acute Medicine
- Dr Mechteld De Jong – Consultant in Endocrine Surgery
- Dr Zeid Yasiry – Consultant in Neurology

Replacement consultant posts:

- Dr Christine Kellett - Consultant in Clinical Oncology
- Dr Stephanie Milne - Consultant in OMFS
- Dr Rohan Iype – Consultant in Clinical Oncology
- Dr Hazem Elahmedawy – Consultant in Anaesthetics
- Dr Thomas Lawrence – Consultant in Anaesthetics
- Dr Alison Colhoun – Consultant in Anaesthetics
- Dr Paul Panesar – Consultant in Anaesthetics
- Dr Sanjay Bhandari – Consultant in Anaesthetics
- Dr Ayesha Khaliq – Consultant in Acute Medicine
- Dr Victoria Appleby – Consultant in Hepatology

## **10. Publication under the Freedom of Information Act**

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**11. Recommendation**

The Board is asked to receive this paper for information, and to ratify the delegated authority for the appointment of consultants.

**Julian Hartley**  
**Chief Executive**